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Cease-Fire Developments

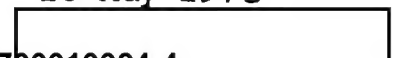
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Cease-Fire Developments



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CAMBODIAEfforts to Revitalize the Cambodian Military Making Little Headway

The High Political Council's initial efforts to revitalize the Cambodian military is making little headway. On 16 May, Major General Sak Sutsakan turned down the council's offer of the post of chief of staff of the army. Sak, one of the more competent senior officers, asked instead to be named ambassador to West Germany. General Fernandez, who reportedly is in line for the new post of commander in chief of the armed forces, will continue as army chief of staff while the search continues. Meanwhile, the High Political Council meeting scheduled for 18 May has been canceled at the request of President Lon Nol.

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LAOSThe Military Situation

The number of clashes and minor shellings continued to decline during the period 10-17 May. The most significant incident reported occurred south-east of Pakse where a Lao Army company was involved in a series of skirmishes with a Communist unit. Pathet Lao troops in the Khong Sedone area north of Pakse told villagers that North Vietnamese units have been ordered to withdraw from the area by 18 May.

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Negotiators to Sam Neua

Two senior Lao Communist negotiators left Vientiane for Lao Communist headquarters at Sam Neua on 17 May. They presumably will participate in discussions of Prime Minister Souvanna's latest peace proposals while awaiting word of the results of the meetings between Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho. Ranking Pathet Lao envoy Phoumi Vongvichit, however, remains behind in the Laotian capital continuing his frequent meetings with government representatives.

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